

Hong Kong Customs seizes suspected "space oil drug" worth about \$1 million (with photo)

Hong Kong Customs detected a case involving etomidate (the main ingredient of "space oil drug"), a kind of Part 1 poison under the Pharmacy and Poisons Regulations at Hong Kong International Airport and seized about one kilogram of suspected "space oil drug" with an estimated market value of about \$1 million on February 5.

Through risk assessment, Customs officers on the aforementioned date inspected one air parcel, declared as lactose, arriving in Hong Kong from India. Upon inspection, Customs officers found the batch of suspected "space oil drug" concealed inside a carton box of the parcel.

After a follow-up investigation, Customs officers today (February 7) conducted a controlled delivery operation in Cheung Sha Wan and arrested a 39-year-old man suspected to be connected with the case.

The arrested man has been charged with one count of importing prohibited articles not under and in accordance with an import licence. The case will be brought up at the Kowloon City Magistrates' Courts tomorrow (February 8).

Customs will continue to step up enforcement against "space oil drug" through intelligence analysis and maintain close contact with the logistics industry. The department reminds logistics companies to remain vigilant and report to Customs any suspicious activities.

Under the Import and Export Ordinance, importing prohibited articles not under and in accordance with an import licence is liable to a maximum fine of \$2 million and imprisonment for seven years.

Members of the public may report any suspected drug trafficking activities to Customs' 24-hour hotline 182 8080 or its dedicated crime-reporting email account (crimereport@customs.gov.hk) or online form (eform.cefs.gov.hk/form/ced002).

